

PACKAGED SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE AND METHOD OF FORMATION

Field of the Invention

5 The invention relates generally to a packaged semiconductor device and more particularly to a method of forming a packaged semiconductor device.

Background

10 In packaging integrated circuits, it is desirable to provide a package that allows for multiple semiconductor die within the package. There are several advantages to including multiple die within one package. For example, packaging costs can be reduced and the amount of space required on a printed circuit board can be reduced. One way to accommodate multiple die within a package is to stack one die on top of another die. However, one problem with the stacked die solution is that thermal dissipation of the die on top of the stack is through the bottom die. For packaged high power devices, the amount of heat
15 that can be dissipated through the bottom die is limited. Therefore, a need exists for a packaged semiconductor device for stacked die having improved thermal dissipation.

Brief Description of the Drawings

25 The present invention is illustrated by way of example and not limitation in the accompanying figures, in which like references indicate similar elements, and in which:

FIGS. 1-7 include illustrations of sequential cross-sectional views of a package device formed in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

Skilled artisans appreciate that elements in the figures are illustrated for simplicity and clarity and have not necessarily been drawn to scale. For example, the dimensions of some of the elements in the figures may be exaggerated relative to other elements to help to improve understanding of various embodiments of the present invention.

Detailed Description

Generally, the present invention provides a packaged semiconductor device for stacked die that improves thermal dissipation by attaching a heat spreader to the top die. The heat spreader attached to the top die supplements a heat spreader that is used to support the bottom die. The bottom heat spreader has a cavity for supporting the stacked die to reduce the height of the device. When the packaged device is attached to a printed circuit board (PCB), the heat spreader attached to the top die contacts the PCB and provides a direct thermal path for sinking heat generated by the operation of the top die. The invention is better understood by turning to the figures.

FIG. 1 illustrates a device 20 in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. Packaged device 20 includes a heat spreader 22 having a cavity 21. In the illustrated embodiment, heat spreader 22 is formed from copper. If formed from copper, heat spreader 22 may be plated with another metal such as chromium silver, nickel-gold, or the like. In other embodiments, heat spreader 22 may be formed from any other

thermally conductive material. A package substrate 24 is attached to heat spreader 22. Package substrate 24 also has an opening corresponding generally to the opening of cavity 21. The top of substrate 24 includes one or more wire bond fingers 30 and one or more solder ball pads 32. In one
5 embodiment of the present invention, pads 32 are formed from a conductive material and may be used for mechanical and electrical connection of device 20 to a PCB. Also, pads 32 may be used to mount discrete devices, may be used to receive test probes for testing purposes, or may be used to receive conductive interconnects (e.g. solder balls). In the illustrated embodiment,
10 wire bond pads 30 are used to electrically connect the die to the package substrate. However, in other embodiments, other techniques may be used for electrically connecting the die to the substrate. Also, substrate 24 contains electrical conductors such as traces (not shown) that connect the wire bond pads 30 to the solder ball pads 32. A semiconductor die 28
15 having electrical circuitry is aligned in cavity 21 and attached to heat spreader 22 using a die attach material 26. Alternately, die 28 may be attached to heat spreader 22 using a die attach tape.

FIG. 2 illustrates one embodiment of packaged device 20 in which a second die 36 is aligned and attached to the top surface of die 28 using a die
20 attach material 34. Generally, die 36 will have a smaller surface area than the surface area of die 28 to which it is attached.

FIG. 3 illustrates one embodiment of package device 20 in which a second heat spreader 40 is attached to the top surface of die 36. Heat
25 spreader 40 is attached to the top surface of die 36 using a die attach material 38. Die attach material 38 may be, for example, one of either epoxy or tape die attach material. In another embodiment, heat spreader 40 may be attached to die 36 by soldering heat spreader 40 to an appropriate sized

metal pad (not shown) on die 36. Heat spreader 40 may be soldered to the metal pad before or after a wafer is singulated into individual die.

In one embodiment, heat spreader 40 is cast from copper. If formed from copper, heat spreader 40 may be plated with another metal such as chromium-silver, nickel-gold, or the like. In other embodiments, heat spreader 40 may be formed using another heat conducting material, such as for example, aluminum or gold, and may be shaped by either stamping, casting, etching, or machining. Also, in the illustrated embodiment, heat spreader 40 is formed to have a tapered, or stepped, feature or ledge indicated by reference number 41, such that the surface area of the bottom surface of heat spreader 40 is greater than the surface area of the top surface of heat spreader 40. Also, heat spreader 40 may be either cylindrical or rectangular in shape when viewed from a top down perspective. If a cylindrical shape is used for heat spreader 40, heat spreader 40 can be visualized as two cylinders connected to each other by their flat surfaces, where one of the cylinders has a smaller diameter than the other cylinder. If a rectangular shape is used for heat spreader 40, it can be visualized as two connected, or contiguous, boxes, where one box has a different volume than the other box. In other embodiments, heat spreader 40 may have a different shape, and may be formed from multiple pieces.

FIG. 4 illustrates one embodiment of device 20 in which dies 28 and 36 are electrically connected to bond fingers 30 by way of wire bonds 44 and 46. Alternate embodiments of the present invention may use any number of wire bonds 44 and 46 and bond fingers 30. Also, illustrated in FIG. 4 as an option, a wire bond 48 electrically couples heat spreader 40 to a location on die 36. For example, wire bond 48 may be used to electrically

ground heat spreader 40 to die 36. The feature 41 in heat spreader 40 serves as a convenient place to attach the optional wire bond.

FIG. 5 illustrates one embodiment of device 20 in which an encapsulating material 50 has been deposited over the stacked die 36 and 28, heat spreader 40, and wire bonds 44, 46, and 48. Note that encapsulating material 50 may be any type of appropriate material for integrated circuits, such as, for example, a molded plastic or a liquid deposited glob material. Also, note that the top surface of encapsulating material 50 is level with the top surface of heat spreader 40 and does not cover the top surface of heat spreader 40. Also, feature 41 functions to lock heat spreader 40 to the top of die 36 and prevents heat spreader 40 from being pushed out of encapsulating material 50 after repeated thermal cycling of device 20. In addition, in the illustrated embodiment, encapsulating material 50 substantially fills all of cavity 21.

FIG. 6 illustrates one embodiment of device 20 in which a plurality of solder balls 52 are formed on the plurality of solder pads 32. Solder balls 52 are formed using one of the conventional techniques for depositing solder balls 52.

FIG. 7 illustrates one embodiment of device 20 in which device 20 is connected to a PCB 54. Note that in the illustrated embodiment, device 20 is flipped, or rotated, in order to attach device 20 to PCB 54. However, in alternate embodiments, device 20 may be oriented in any manner during its formation. PCB 54 includes a plurality of bond pads 60 that correspond in location to the solder pads 32. Solder balls 52 are heated and reflowed to provide an electrical connection to pads 60 that may also have screen printed solder paste, or the like, applied thereto. Also, a solder connection 56 is formed between heat spreader 40 and a corresponding pad 60 on PCB 54.

Heat spreader 40 provides a second heat dissipation path for device 20. During operation of device 20, heat is dissipated from die 36, at least in part, through heat spreader 40. The need for die 28 to dissipate heat generated by die 36 is reduced, thus allowing for stacked die semiconductor devices with greater power dissipation.

Note that traces and vias (not shown) within substrate 24 are used to selectively interconnect various portions of substrate 24. Note also that die attach materials 26, 34, and 38 may be any type of appropriate material, such as, for example, adhesive tape or non-solid adhesive (e.g. glue, epoxy). Die 28 and 36 may be any type of integrated circuit, semiconductor device, or other type of electrically active substrate. Alternate embodiments of the present invention may have any number of die 28 and 36 packaged within packaged semiconductor device 20. For example, alternate embodiments may package three die in package device 20. Note that the size and aspect ratios of die 28 and 36 may vary. Note that die 28 and 36 are located within cavity 21 of heat spreader 22 in the illustrated embodiment. However, in other embodiments, die 28 and die 36 may be located on a heat spreader that does not have a cavity 21. Also, heat spreader 22 may be patterned on the side opposite to cavity 21 to increase surface area for improved thermal dissipation.

In the foregoing specification the invention has been described with reference to specific embodiments. However, one of ordinary skill in the art appreciates that various modifications and changes can be made without departing from the scope of the present invention as set forth in the claims below. For example, any appropriate die attach processes, wire bond processes, solder ball forming processes, and tape processes may be used in the formation of package device 20, of which there are many known in the

art. Accordingly, the specification and figures are to be regarded in an illustrative rather than restrictive sense, and all such modifications are intended to be included within the scope of the present invention. Benefits, other advantages, and solutions to problems have been described with regard
5 to specific embodiments. However, the benefits, advantages, solutions to problems, and any element(s) that may cause any benefit, advantage, or solution to occur or become more pronounced are not to be construed as a critical, required, or essential feature or element of any of the claims.

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